TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 21, 1997 LB 590

if you listened to that explanation. So I don't have that concern, because the power they have, in terms of setting fees, has been drastically limited by the committee amendments and further by the Coordsen amendment, amendments which I have proposed and supported. So I don't think that's a very accurate picture to paint. At this point, this is the best we could do in terms of...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...the board. I guess I cannot imagine anything being more negotiable in state government than what the makeup of a board should be. So if there are good ideas to be proposed by Select File for further modifying the makeup of this board, come forth and make your case. But at this point I think this is a good policy change to make, and I would urge you to support the amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Witek, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR AITEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I quess something that I'd like to remind the whole Legislature of that started us down this whole pathway of who would decide who got access and how that access would be made available to the public on this public records issue was done in the executive branch without the knowledge or approval of the Legislature. If you remember how this whole thing started, Senator Preister, I know is very quiet back there, but he brought in a bill trying to get us all up to speed on the issue when it was actually occurring. The Governor and everyone in that branch and that decision-making process was advised by their own attorney, by their own attorney that they hired to come to the Legislature and allow us to make these decisions and be involved in this process. They chose to ignore that counsel. They went to the Library Commission, who signed again another contract that's out there, and this is happening more and more frequently that all those individuals are signing contracts and then they come to the Legislature with these signed contracts, and they tell us there's nothing you can do about it, the contract's already signed, we've already got a contract out there. This isn't the only issue that this has happened around. This has happened in